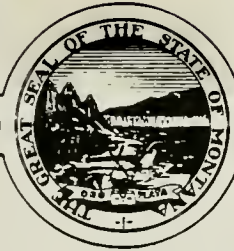


DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 201601

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-2074

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

June 30, 1993

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Department of State Lands (DSL). The EA evaluates a proposal by Majesty Mining, Inc. to operate a 30,000 ton per year cyanide heap leach.

Public comment on this EA will be received by DSL until 5:00 PM Friday, July 23, 1993.

Comments should be about the adequacy of the EA in assessing issues, new information not considered that may influence the analysis, and clarification. Comments should be specific. The DSL will use these comments and staff responses, the EA, and the application to make a final decision on the permit. The decision may be to approve the proposal, deny the proposal, or approve the proposal with additional modifications.

Comments will be accepted by phone (406) 444-2074, or by writing to:

Pete Strazdas
Department of State Lands
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pete Strazdas".

Pete Strazdas
Reclamation Program Supervisor
Hard Rock Bureau
Reclamation Division

PS/ra

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JUN 30 1993

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<http://www.archive.org/details/majestymininginc1993mont>

**MAJESTY MINING, INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

BACKGROUND

Majesty Mining, Inc. filed a Small Miners Exclusion Statement (SMES) on July 16, 1992 for a hardrock mine in Sections 30 and 31: T3S R1W, Madison County. The mine location is on Revenue Flats, approximately 5 miles southwest of Norris, near the old Revenue mine.

On April 7, 1993, Majesty made application for a SMES Cyanide Operating Permit. This permit would cover those facilities where cyanide would be used, but would not cover the mining pit, which is located some 200 feet north of the pad and pond area. Both mine and leach pad area would be covered by the SMES.

OPERATING PLAN

Majesty would mine approximately 30,000 tons of ore per year using track mounted excavators, dozers, and 15 yard dump trucks. It is estimated that the deposit is sufficient to maintain the operation for 5 years.

Facilities would include a leach pad, pregnant and barren pond, and a recovery plant. The total area covered by these facilities would be 210 feet by 360 feet, or 1.7 acres. There would be two 15 foot layers of ore on each of two leach pad cells.

The leach pad would be loaded for about 30 days and then leached for 60 days. This cycle would repeat during the operating season of about 6 months.

The entire facilities area, including the leach pad, pregnant and barren ponds, and recovery plant, would be underlain by two 40 mil PVC liners with a leak detection system between the liners. The leak detection beneath the leach pad would consist of a 4"HD pipe bedded in an interlayer of sand. Leakage through the primary liner would collect in this pipe, which would then report to the pregnant pond.

The pregnant and barren ponds would also both be lined with a double liner and would have a plastic piping system with a sump to evacuate any solution that may accumulate between the liners as the result of a leak in the primary liner. The ponds would be sized to contain the ten year, 24 hour precipitation event.

RECLAMATION PLAN

The residual solution remaining in the ore after the gold values have been recovered would be sprayed onto the leach pad using misting spray heads to evaporate and kill as much cyanide as possible. Following flushing with fresh water, the residual

cyanide would be killed with the introduction of hydrogen peroxide. When cyanide levels are reduced to 0.22 ppm WAD cyanide, the remaining solution would be irrigated onto the land disposal area.

Following destruction of the cyanide, the leach pad would be recontoured to slopes of 2.5H : 1V. The ponds and plant area would be recontoured so that the area would slope gently northward. Salvaged soil would be replaced on regraded areas and then seeded with a mix of native grasses.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Topography: The proposed site is in a high plains area with varied topographic features. The reclaimed leach pad would be a hill approximately 30 feet high and one acre in area. This would not be readily distinguishable from naturally occurring topographic features in the area.

3. Soils: All available soils would be salvaged from the facilities area. A minimum of 1,000 cubic yards, or 4 inches of soil depth, can be salvaged from the site. It is anticipated that a greater depth would actually be available for salvage and replacement.

4. Water: The site is located on a high, dry ridge. The nearest surface water is 8,500 feet to the northwest in the South Fork of Warm Springs Creek. It would not be possible for the proposed operation to have any impact on that stream.

Groundwater is found at a depth of over 300 feet. There are no wells or springs in the vicinity. It is anticipated that this operation would have no impact on groundwater.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial, Avian, and Aquatic: The area provides year round habitat for mule deer, although use of the area is low. Apparently other large species are also relatively rare transients in the area. The facilities area would be fenced to exclude livestock and wildlife.

The immediate area does not provide suitable raptor nesting sites.

The nearest fishery would be in the South Fork of Warm Springs Creek, 1.6 miles to the northwest.

2. Vegetation: Native vegetation is a sagebrush grassland community. Noxious weeds have not been identified in the project area. It is anticipated that reclamation would return the site to a community similar to the native vegetation.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. Historical and Archaeological: The project is located in a historic mining district. There are numerous abandoned shafts, pits, and old mining related structures in the area. The area has been extensively inventoried. The proposed project would not impact any historic structures.

12. Aesthetics: The proposed project is located in a historic mining district with many relic features. The disturbance created by this proposal would not differ from those of an earlier era, and would blend into the background topography at reclamation.

